



Alaska PreservationPrez <alaskapreservationprez@gmail.com>

Wolf Creek Boatworks, Hollis AK

5 messages

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Reply-To: Dinah@ketchikanlegacy.com

To: SM.FS.WC_Boatworks@usda.gov, alaskapreservationprez@gmail.com

I am writing to weigh in with my position on the preservation efforts going on with Wolf Creek Boatworks and its transfer to Alaska Mental Health. As a 20-year realtor and resident of Ketchikan and frequent visitor to Prince of Wales Island, I've had a great deal of experience with the importance SE Alaska residents place on her historic landmarks and the impact they have on our identity. We are, at our core, a uniquely historic community that works diligently to maintain our connections and traditions surrounding fishing, native villages, maritime, natural resources, and early 1900's society. This appreciation and celebration of our history is our life-blood.

The very concept of tearing down or mandating the relocation of a functioning, privately maintained, century old boat building facility that has been owned by SE Alaskans since its creation, is currently in use by a large population of island residents, and recognized as a landmark by ferry passengers daily, is beyond comprehension. I purchased my first skiff, made by hand, from Wolf Creek, and have enjoyed dozens of stories from people, about the history out there. This is not a squatter's cabin. This is an iconic, historically valuable, economically viable, precious piece of our history and it's being traded off for a handful of magic beans.

The Programmatic Agreement, completed by SHPO, AMHT, and the ACHP is the agreement that should have resolved the adverse effect to the historic Boatworks. Instead, it was completed and released with (1) an assumption that the building would not be removed, (2) it would be included in an historic property management plan, and the parties involved (3) "were not even aware that Sam Romey owned it". When the misinformation came to light, it was not corrected, but continued to be the agreement moving forward. The 106 investigation began with the misinformation of the PA and even when Chris Daniel, from the DC based agency ACHP, voiced concern, the controlling parties would not even allow a deadline extension to further gather input and information on the agreement. It appears that the very mechanism created to protect and preserve historic buildings from being destroyed, is the vehicle being used to steamroll Wolf Creek Boatworks into a lucrative asset for AK Mental Health. It is my fervent hope that Senator Murkowski's office will intervene on behalf of what is fair, just, and right for Wolf Creek and SE Alaska.

Thank you,

Dinah Pearson, Ketchikan

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Over prepare and go with the flow!